

## **Resolution to oppose Superintendent Vitti's 2019-2020 calendar**

Whereas, Superintendent Vitti and the Detroit School Board approved a new calendar for the 2019-2020 school year during the April 16 Regular Board meeting;

Whereas, the calendar changes are based on aligning the district calendar with state-mandated standardized testing schedules regardless of the fact that these tests have no proven educational value (despite what the test publishers' marketing materials say);

Whereas, the new calendar includes an additional 5 workdays for DPSCD teachers;

Whereas, DPSCD teachers are already paid on average 20% less than teachers in surrounding districts; and

Whereas, Article 8 – Professional Compensation, Section A, Paragraph 8 (page 23) of the collective bargaining agreement between the DFT and the DPSCD Administration states: “There will be a salary/wage re-opener for the 2019-20 school year, provided, however, that in any event or circumstance *there will be no reduction of salaries, wages, or other forms of monetary compensation for DFT bargaining unit members for that school year* [emphasis added].” Allowing the current calendar to go forward without a concurrent salary increase at each step would constitute a violation of this provision by reducing our daily rate of pay; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT) condemns as second-class treatment any policy that requires Detroit teachers to work longer hours for less pay than teachers in other districts;

*Resolved*, the DFT calls on Superintendent Vitti and district administration to stop basing policy decisions on standardized testing;

*Resolved*, the DFT calls on Superintendent Vitti and the Board of Education to rescind this new calendar immediately and to reinstate the provisions of previous calendars, namely that 1.) The number of days should remain at 181 instructional days, 5 PD days, and 9 holidays for a total of 195 days, 2.) Students should return to school after Labor Day, 3.) The full February break should be reinstated, and 4.) The spring break should be the week after Easter;

*Resolved*, the DFT supports efforts to recognize and honor the diversity of our district by having schools closed in observance of Islamic holidays. The DFT further supports reducing the number of instructional days from 181 to the state required minimum of 180 for that purpose;

*Resolved*, the DFT will sponsor a picket/rally at the next Board of Education meeting on May 14 at Renaissance High School. The picket will begin at 4:45p.m. and members will be encouraged to attend the Board meeting at 5:30p.m. to demand that Superintendent Vitti and the Board rescind the calendar; and

*Resolved*, the DFT will view administration's decision to proceed with the current calendar as a violation of our collective bargaining agreement and take appropriate action.